

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the above application be reconsidered, as amended. Claims 1-25 are currently pending.

The specification has been amended to correct some typographical errors and to provide the serial numbers and filing dates of certain co-pending applications referenced therein.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended, without disclaimer or prejudice, to clarify that the thickness percentages for the respective layers were originally intended to be relative to the thermal barrier coating. Support for these amendments can be found in paragraph [0035] at pages 11-12 of the above application.

**A. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph**

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-25 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, with specific reference to: (1) Claims 1, 9 and 23; (2) Claim 5; and (3) Claims 6 and 7:

1. Regarding Claims 1, 9 and 23, the Office Action alleges that the first metal oxide of the stabilizer component cannot have a concentration of 49 mole % because a second metal oxide is required. However, what is alleged in the Office Action misconstrues Claims 1, 9 and 23 as to how much of the second metal oxide can be present in the upper layer. What these Claims say is that the second metal oxide is present in an amount of about 4 mole % or less in the upper layer, *i.e.*, the maximum amount of the second metal oxide that can be present in the upper layer. In other words, the second metal oxide is an optional component, and need not be present in the upper layer, as is clearly taught in the above application. See paragraph [0021] at page 6 of the above application.

2. Regarding Claim 5, the Office Action questions whether the upper and lower layer notations are reversed because the upper layer comprises hafnia and tantala, while the lower layer “further comprises” hafnia. However, and contrary to what the Office Action says or suggests, there has been no reversal of notations regarding the respective layers if Claim 5 is read correctly.

Claim 1, from which Claim 5 ultimately depends, defines the upper layer as comprising hafnia and/or tantala (as the third metal oxide). Because hafnia is already mentioned as being potentially present in the upper layer in Claim 1, there is no need to refer in Claim 5 to the upper layer as "further comprising" hafnia. By contrast, Claim 1 does not specifically mention that the lower layer can potentially comprise hafnia. Instead, because hafnia is mentioned for the first time in Claim 5 as being present in the lower layer, Claim 5 properly says that the lower layer "further comprises" hafnia.

3. Regarding Claims 6 and 7, the Office Action asks whether the thickness percentages of the respective layers are relative to the entire coating. Responsive to this comment, Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to clarify that these thickness percentage were originally intended to be relative to the thermal barrier coating. See paragraph [0035] at pages 11-12 of the above application. See also Claims 10 and 10.

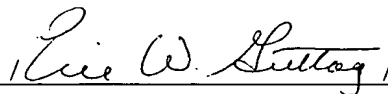
In summary, Claims 1-25, as amended, comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

**B. Conclusion**

In conclusion, Claims 1-25, as amended, comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-25, as amended, be allowed to issue in the above application.

Respectfully submitted,

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